

## Soils Project

*...an approach to cleanup*

### History

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) and the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) played important roles in the advancement of the nation's nuclear testing program. The NTS is located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, and the NTTR (including the TTR) surround the east, north, and west boundaries of the NTS, in south-central Nevada. From 1951 through 1992, the sites were used by the Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor agency to the U.S. Department of Energy [DOE]) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons tests, and chemical explosion tests of plutonium-bearing materials. In addition, safety experiments and storage-transportation tests were conducted to evaluate the safety of nuclear weapons in accident scenarios.

The "Soils Project" sites include:

- Buggy
- Cabriolet / Palanquin
- Clean Slate I, II and III
- Danny Boy
- Double Tracks
- Frenchman Flat
- GMX Project
- Johnnie Boy
- Little Feller I and II
- Plutonium Valley
- Project 57
- Schooner
- Sedan
- Small Boy
- Smokey
- Wilson
- Yucca Flat

### Background

In 1989, as part of the DOE Nevada Site Office (NSO) Environmental Management Program,

the NSO launched an intensive restoration effort to address the environmental liabilities associated with more than 40 years of nuclear weapons testing. The Soils Project is part of this effort and its purpose is to manage and, where necessary, clean up surface and shallow subsurface soils. These soils contain many types of contaminants including radioactive materials, oils, solvents, gasoline, and heavy metals, particularly lead; as well as contaminated instruments and structures used during testing activities.

### Restoration Efforts

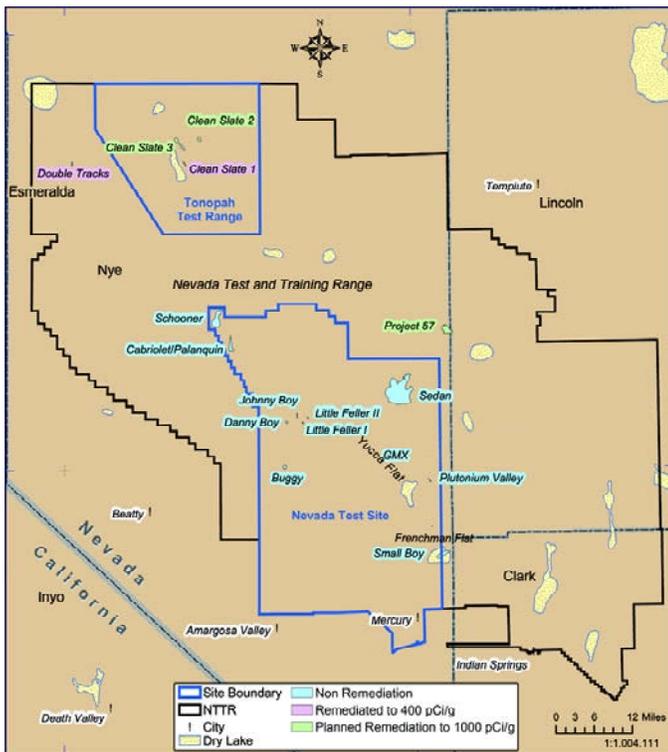
All of the sites under the Soils Project require some form of corrective action, ranging from removal of soil to closure in place with restricted access controls. Prior to selecting corrective action



*Dust control for remediation activities at the Double Tracks work site on the Tonopah Test Range.*

strategies, the NSO performs characterization activities at each site to establish the nature and extent of contamination, and determine potential risk to the public and environment. Corrective actions performed must comply with guidelines and requirements set forth by the Federal Facilities Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO).

# ER



This map of the Nevada Test Site, Nevada Test and Training Range, and the Tonopah Test Range, shows each of the "Soils" sites.

The FFACO is an agreement between the State of Nevada's Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the DOE and the DoD, that outlines a series of activities that must be completed for remediation of sites contaminated by DOE and DoD activities. These guidelines include a schedule for cleanup and monitoring commitments, and require the State's approval of corrective actions.

## Path Forward

There are a total of 88 Soils Project Corrective Action Sites. Preliminary characterization activities have taken place at each of these locations and two sites on the TTR have been remediated and are waiting for NDEP approval before being formally closed. Upon closure of sites on the NTTR (including the TTR) the properties will be relinquished to the DoD for planned land-use scenarios.

Sites on the NTS will undergo further characterization, and will be cleaned, fenced, posted, and/or monitored as necessary. For sites where contamination is left in place, use restrictions will be maintained. These sites will continue to be managed by the NSO, according to land withdrawal requirements. The anticipated date for completion of all Corrective Action Sites is 2022.

For more information, contact the NSO using the information provided below.

For more information, please contact:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Nevada Site Office  
Office of Public Affairs  
P.O. Box 98518  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518  
(702) 295-3521  
nevada@nv.doe.gov  
<http://www.nv.doe.gov>

Working today  
to protect  
your future